

Georgia Department of Human Resources

TUBERCULOSIS IN GEORGIA

THE NUMBERS

- 524 tuberculosis cases were reported in Georgia in 2002 - a 9 percent decrease from 576 cases in 2001.
- The health districts reporting the highest number of TB cases in 2002 were: Fulton (119), DeKalb (88), Cobb (33) and Gwinnett (29).
- TB cases were predominantly male (64%), African-American (60%) and US-born (69%).
- Two multi-drug resistant cases were reported in 2002 and 21 cases (6%) were resistant to isoniazid.
- In 2001, 94 percent of TB patients completed treatment for active disease and 95 percent received directly observed therapy.
- In 2000, approximately 1,300 contacts of active TB cases were infected with TB and 54 percent completed treatment to prevent progression to active TB disease.

New Cases of TB	
Year	Case
2002	524
2001	576
2000	703
1999	670
1998	631
1997	696
1996	790
1995	746
1994	740
1993	809
1992	893

THE RESOURCES

- During FY 2002 the Department of Human Resources (DHR) spent \$7.2 million, including \$4.7 million in state funds and \$2.5 million in federal funds, to treat and prevent TB in Georgia. Over \$1 million was set aside for drugs to treat TB patients.
- Directly observed therapy (DOT) is available in all health districts. DOT means that public health staff arrange for a responsible person to make sure the patient takes medication consistently, either at home, at work, or in a clinic or doctor's office. When patients do not take the complete course of TB medication they may develop drug resistant strains of the bacteria.
- Since 1996, Georgia DHR, in collaboration with the Georgia Chapter of the American Lung Association, has been providing DOT, housing and social services to homeless infectious TB patients statewide.
- When hospitalization is necessary for acute care of a person with TB, DHR has contracts with public and private hospitals. Grady Hospital in Atlanta has 73 isolation beds for patients either suspected of or diagnosed as having infectious TB. Other hospitals throughout the state have smaller numbers of beds for infectious TB patients.
- Antioch Urban Ministries' Madison House, a residence for the working poor in Atlanta, has 20 beds for noninfectious TB patients.
- The Georgia Department of Corrections screens all of its 47,000 prisoners at entry and annually. During calendar year 2002, 27 TB cases were residents of correctional facilities.